

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A protective instrument cover, comprising:
a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of a stringed instrument body and is between (a) the stringed instrument body and (b) a string of the stringed instrument body, ~~wherein the front portion comprises flexible material~~; and
means for attaching the front portion to the front surface of the stringed instrument body without requiring removal of hardware of the stringed instrument body, the means for attaching comprising one or more of a hook-and-loop fastener, a button, a zipper, a snap, or lacing.
2. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein at least part of the cover comprises stretchable synthetic material.
3. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises neoprene.
4. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises spandex.
5. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 2, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises latex.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the stringed instrument is a guitar.
8. (Original) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the means for attaching comprises at least one zipper.
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A protective instrument cover, comprising:
 - a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of a stringed instrument body and is between (a) the stringed instrument body and (b) a string of the stringed instrument body; and
 - a fastener that attaches the front portion of the cover to the front surface of the stringed instrument body,
 - wherein at least part of the cover comprises stretchable synthetic material.
11. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises neoprene.
12. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises spandex.
13. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stretchable synthetic material comprises latex.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the stringed instrument is a guitar.
16. (Original) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, wherein the fastener comprises at least one zipper.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) A protective instrument cover, comprising:
 - a front portion that extends over substantially an entire front surface of an instrument;
 - a back portion that covers at least part of a back surface of the instrument body;
 - a side portion connecting the front portion and the back portion; and

means for attaching the front portion, back portion and side portion to the instrument body without requiring removal of hardware of the instrument body;

wherein at least one of the front portion, the back portion or the side portion comprises stretchable synthetic material; and

wherein the means for attaching is functionally independent of a stretching action of the stretchable synthetic material.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the front portion extends to an outer peripheral edge of the front surface of the stringed instrument body.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The protective instrument cover of claim 7, wherein the front portion extends to an outer peripheral edge of the front surface of the guitar.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The protective instrument cover of claim 10, further comprising a side portion that extends across a side surface of the stringed instrument body.

25. (New) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, further comprising a side portion that extends across a side surface of the stringed instrument body.

26. (New) The protective instrument cover of claim 1, wherein the front portion is stretchable.